

The Rush County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. with Norman Winkler, Chairman, Warren Norris, Gerald Mohr, Janet Kile, Bruce Levi, Kevin Spilman Jerry Kent, Deborah Adams, Auditor and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance.

Chairman, Norman Winkler called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the August 10, 2011 meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Gerald Mohr, seconded by Warren Norris. Motion carried.

WEDNESDY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

FIRST BUDGET READING

Each Office Holder and Department Head appeared before the council to present and discuss with the council his/her 2012 prepared budget(s).

- **CORONER** – Gerald Mohr made the motion to approve the motion of a \$5,000.00 transfer from equipment (1-7-4-1) into autopsies (1-7-3-1). Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **REASSESSMENT** – The state has not yet approved the 2012 Reassessment levy.
- **SOLID WASTE FIRST READING** – At 11:20 a.m. Carole Yeend, Solid Waste Director, reviewed the proposed 2012 Solid Waste District Budget with the County Council. Jerry Kent made the motion to approve the first reading of the budget. Gerald Mohr seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **LUNCH** – Gerald Mohr made the motion to recess for lunch until 1:15. Jerry Kent seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Councilman Kevin Spilman was absent for the afternoon budget session due to work schedule conflicts.
- **COMMISSIONER** – Commissioner Ken Masters informed the council that the commissioners recommended a 2% salary increase for all county employees.
- **EMS** - Conversation was held regarding the budget cut to Raleigh Fire Dept. Masters stated that the commissioners wanted a level playing field. Other discussion revealed that other departments did not ask for an increase. The council listened to Verlin Custer discuss the \$8,000.00 department reduction. The council did voice to Ken Masters that they would like to see the 2012 contract remain the same as it is in 2011 for Raleigh Fire Dept with the protocols not being changed. Ken Masters was asked to take this message from the council back to the other two commissioners. Ken Masters shared that the state was now going state wide with the same protocols. Masters noted that cost has to be considered when considering ambulance service. Jerry Kent did share comments as being on the EMS committee and also having talked to other council members. Kent shared that a paramedic is not required at every run and he was not interested in footing a bill for a paramedic at every run. Kent stated that their individual townships have no

complaints with their volunteer's. Kent noted if the volunteer service is ever gone, you will never get it back.

- **EXTENSION** – Kristie Amos, Purdue Educator, asked to have the return of the summer help to the 2012 budget. Amos reported that 4-H registration was up by ten (10) in 2011.
- **SHERIFF** – Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff, asked to have retired deputy Randy Chandler replaced. Discussion was held on a work release program. Sherwood did share that Judge Hill is a strong supporter of work release.
- **E-911 WIRELESS 200** – will need to look at other funding for dispatchers in 2013.
- **SURVEYOR** – Marvin Rees, Surveyor, asked to have the part time returned to his budget.
- **DRAINAGE BOARD** - Warren Norris made the motion to approve the \$350.00 additional appropriation for extra member. Janet Kile seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **EMA** – Chuck Kemker, New EMA Director, stated that a deputy director was not needed. Kemker reviewed state guideline changes to the department. Kemker informed the council that the EMA Directors salary reimbursement has been reduced from 50% to 30%. This is due to paperwork not being turned in to the state on a timely basis.
Bill Todd discussed the necessity of an alarm system located at the levy on the State Rd 3 Bridge. Todd stated that the current system is outdated and does not work. The state will not certify the levy until this is addressed. Two (2) string gauges will cost \$22,000.00 of which the city is responsible. The yearly maintenance fees are \$4,500.00 per string gauge. The city will assume the cost for the maintenance of one string gauge located at the state road 3 bridge. The city is seeking assistance from the county for funding the maintenance of the string gauge located on 800 north.
- **HIGHWAY** – Jerry Sitton, Highway Superintendent, asked for a 4% pay increase. Sitton reported that the last pay increase received was in 2008. Sitton reported that he has lost three (3) employees and do not currently plan to replace them. Three (3) pick-up trucks have been budgeted to be replaced. The trucks are all 1995. The council asked Sitton if he could squeeze the \$4,500 maintenance cost of the string gauge within his budget. Sitton thought that he could if the council would approve his budget as submitted.
- **CUM BRIDGE** – Sitton reported that funds are not available to support the \$3 million in bridges that need replaced over the next five (5) years. Sitton noted that most bridges are a 20' and 21' span bridge.
- **LOCAL ROAD STREET** – Sitton reported that the department has not done blade mix for four (4) years due to the cost of the materials.
- **HEALTH** – Dr. Davis Ellis, Health Officer, shared that his contract expires December 31, 2011. Dr. Dorothy Boersma will be recommended as his replacement. The council expressed their appreciation to Dr. Ellis for his dedication to the public health and to Rush County.
- **HEALTH MAINTENANCE** – Dr. Ellis shared the budget plans for 2012 with \$20,000.00 going to Family Health Services. County Attorney Leigh Morning raised a few questions for the council to consider.

- **I-T** – Randy Herbert, I-T, will review the fixed asset list for the county computers to receive the Windows 7.
- **EDIT** – Discussion was held on the EDIT fund.

Jerry Kent made the motion to approve the first reading of the county budgets. Gerald Mohr seconded the motion. Motion carried. Norman Winkler signed the budget form 4.

The council discussed budget adjustments and proposals to view for Thursday's adoption. Bruce Levi made the motion to recess until Thursday, September 15, 2011. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

The Rush County Council met for the second reading of the budget Thursday, September 15, 2011 with Norman Winkler, Gerald Mohr, Warren Norris, Janet Kile, Bruce Levi, Kevin Spilman, Jerry Kent, County Attorney Leigh Morning and Deborah Adams, Auditor in attendance.

The council reviewed each budget making notes for future possible cuts if the DLGF requires once the maximum levy has been established.

- **COMMISSIONERS/EDIT** – Discussion was held regarding increasing a department budgeted above the published amount. County Attorney informed the council that this is allowed with a three-quarters vote from the council.
Janet Kile went on record as a sitting member of the ECDC board explained why she wants the county portion to remain at \$65,000.00. Kile stated that the Senior Center should remain at \$10,000.00. Kile stated that she sits on the Senior Center board and she would like the Ride Rush proposed budget appropriation be increased to \$10,000.00 as originally set up. Gerald Mohr shared his support with Kile in regards to the ECDC budget remaining at \$65,000.00.
- **PART TIME WAGES** - Kevin Spilman made the motion to set the part time wage of a maximum of \$10.50 per hour, and not less than the minimum hourly wage and not more than the \$10.50 per hour. Gerald Mohr seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **SOLID WASTE** – The second reading of the Solid Waste budget was given. Jerry Kent made the motion to approve and sign the provided budget form 4. Warren Norris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

RECESS – Warren Norris made the motion to recess for lunch from 11:15 until 2:00. Gerald Mohr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BUDGET APPROVED – The council reconvened at 2:00 p.m. which allowed budget changes and salary increases to be made. The council reviewed the individual budgets.

Gerald Mohr made the motion to approve the budget contingent upon state approval. Janet Kile seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Superior Court – Gerald Mohr made the motion to increase the salaries of the Superior Court Reporter and Administrator by 2% contingent upon state approval of the county budget. Warren Norris seconded the motion. A three quarters vote is required. All council members voted Aye.
- Commissioner – Janet Kile made the motion to increase the RMH Ambulance budgeted appropriation (1-19-3-9) from the proposed \$137,000.00 to \$215,000.00. A three quarters vote is required. All council members voted Aye. Gerald Mohr made the motion to increase the Raleigh Fire Dept budgeted appropriation (1-19-3-10) from the proposed \$40,000.00 to \$48,000.00. Kevin Spilman seconded the motion. A three quarters vote is required. All council members voted Aye.
- Drainage Board – Bruce Levi made the motion to increase the salaries of the three members of the Drainage board (1-21-1-1; 1-21-1-2; 1-21-1-3) by 2%. Warren Norris seconded the motion. A three quarters vote is required. All council members voted Aye.
- EDIT – Gerald Mohr made the motion for the auditor to advertise an Additional Appropriation of \$137,000.00 from the EDIT fund for the purpose of making the fall RMH Ambulance subsidy payment. Bruce Levi seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Auditor will also send a letter to Rush Memorial requesting \$137,000.00 from the Ambulance fund.
- BUDGET FORM 4- Budget form 4 was signed by each council person on a motion by Gerald Mohr. Janet Kile seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bill Todd, Area Plan Director, shared his appreciation to the council members for their efforts during the past couple days of budget hearings and adoptions. The council assured Todd that they only were trying to be fair and wanted to treat everyone the same.

Motion to adjourn was initiated by Jerry Kent. Gerald Mohr seconded the motion, motion carried.

_____	_____/s/Warren Norris_____ Warren Norris	_____/s/Gerald Mohr_____ Gerald Mohr
Norman Winkler, Chairman		

_____/s/Janet Kile_____ Janet Kile	_____/s/Bruce Levi_____ Bruce Levi	_____/s/Kevin Spilman_____ Kevin Spilman
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_____/s/Jerry Kent_____ Jerry Kent

ATTEST:

/s/Deborah C. Adams
Deborah C. Adams, Auditor